

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 261120Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO AMCONSUL TORONTO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4580
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: ISRAELI CONCERN OVER QUEBEC

REF: TORONTO 0142

1. PRESS COVERAGE HERE OF THE VISIT OF ONTARIO PREMIER DAVIS TO ISRAEL DID NOT SHOW ISRAELI CONCERN ABOUT THE QUEBEC SITUATION. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED DAVIS TOLD US THAT UPON HIS ARRIVAL DAVIS WAS ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS BY ISRAELI JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS IN QUEBEC ON THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. HE SAID THAT DAVIS GAVE A RATHER VAGUE ANSWER AND SAID SIMPLY THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS AND MOVES TOWARD INDEPENDENCE WERE SERIOUS DEVELOPMENTS AND THERE WERE FAR-REACHING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REASONS WHICH LAY BEHIND THOSE MOVES. HE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF THE MFA THAT THE QUEBEC ELECTION AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN CANADA WERE NOT DISCUSSED DURING MEETINGS WITH ISRAELI
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OFFICIALS.

3. SHORTLY AFTER THE QUEBEC ELECTIONS, HOWEVER, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF STORIES AND REPORTS IN THE ISRAELI PRESS WHICH DISCUSSED CONCERN IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN MONTREAL, ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS. THOSE REPORTS INDICATED THAT A NUMBER OF JEWISH BUSINESSMEN

WERE CONSIDERING MOVING TO TORONTO OR FARTHER.

4. BOTH CANADIAN EMBASSY AND MFA OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED TO US--WRYLY--THE LARGE NUMBER OF CANADIAN JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED DAVID AND THEIR FEELING THAT HIS TRIP WAS NOT UNRELATED TO THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION IN ONTARIO.

5. ON A SOMEWHAT RELATED SUBJECT, THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN SOME REPORTING IN ISRAELI MEDIA OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT ISSUE IN CANADA AND PARTICULARLY IN THE TWO PROVINCES OF QUEBEC AND ONTARIO. THE ISSUE HAS APPARENTLY ARISEN BECAUSE OF THE RECENT PUBLICATION OF A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT BY THE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COERCION AND DISCRIMINATION, HEADED BY PROFESSOR IRWIN COTLER OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON THIS ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JERUSALEM POST OF JANUARY 26 STATED "ONTARIO'S POSITION OPPOSING THE BOYCOTT HAS BEEN BOLDLY STATED BY PREMIER WILLIAM DAVIS IN HIS RECENT OFFICIAL VISIT TO ISRAEL... QUEBEC IS ANOTHER MATTER; SINCE PREMIER RENE LEVESQUE HAS NEITHER BEEN APPROACHED, NOR HAS HE VOLUNTEERED ANY ACTION, TO DEAL WITH THE ARAB BOYCOTT." DUNNIGAN

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